



November 2018

A Message from your SPOC

The Office of Information Technology (OIT) is proud to announce it has been awarded a federal grant to assist with the education and awareness of the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) and the National Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN) deployment.

On October 10th, 2017 Governor Kay Ivey announced the State's decision to opt in to the FirstNet and AT&T plan to deliver a wireless broadband network to the state's public safety community. FirstNet will bring advanced tools to help Alabama's first responders save lives and protect communities. FirstNet awarded its core contract to AT&T in March of 2017 and has been working collaboratively to promote this nationwide wireless broadband network.

As we approach the New Year, the Alabama FirstNet Program Office will be reaching out to communities and public safety entities throughout the State to introduce FirstNet capabilities and programs. These encounters will provide first responders an opportunity to provide feedback on their current and future broadband needs. This dialogue will help first responders and the FirstNet team identify the most advantageous options for broadband coverage.

For more information, contact the Alabama FirstNet team at (334) 353-0219 or send an email to alabamafirstnet@oit.alabama.gov. You can also visit our website at firstnet.alabama.gov.



Jim Purcell

**Acting Secretary,
Alabama Office of
Information Technology
State Single Point of
Contact (SPOC)**

What is FirstNet?

The First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) is an independent organization within the US Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA). Signed into law in 2012, the Middle-Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act created FirstNet. The law gives FirstNet the mission to build, operate and maintain the first high-speed, nationwide wireless broadband network dedicated to public safety. FirstNet will provide a single interoperable platform for emergency and daily public safety communications.

This broadband network will fulfill a fundamental need of the public safety community, giving public safety 21st century communication tools to help save lives, solve crimes and keep our communities and emergency responders safe. To do that, FirstNet will build a new Band Class 14 network designed to be reliable, functional, safe and secure, and provide optimal levels of operational capability at all times. For the first time, public safety communications will be based on commercial standards. This will bring the benefits of lower costs, consumer-driven economies of scale and rapid evolution of advanced communication capabilities.

For more information on FirstNet, visit the Alabama FirstNet website at firstnet.alabama.gov



News

FirstNet Serves as Key Component of Cold Case Investigation

Elmore County, AL - For law enforcement and first responders, every second counts, whether in times of emergencies or special investigations. That was just the case recently for several law enforcement agencies in Alabama, as a family in Elmore County awaited answers in the cold case disappearance of their loved one.

30-year-old Traci Pittman Kegley was last seen after leaving her home in Eclectic in April of 1998. In February of this year, law enforcement officials received a tip from a confidential source in connection with her decades-old disappearance, leading them to renew their search for closure in the case. When authorities set out to search a 300-acre wooded property in rural Elmore County, they used a mix of traditional police work and cutting-edge technology to try and find evidence.

The Alabama Emergency Management Agency was tasked with providing interoperable communications for the investigation. The state of Alabama had yet to approve a contract for state agencies to purchase FirstNet services. So, the agency reached out to the Principal Consultant with FirstNet-AT&T to see how they could help.

Powering the connections among first responders and these advance tools was a cell on wheels (COW) vehicle that linked the mobile devices to FirstNet, the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network being built by AT&T with oversight from the U.S. government's First Responder Network Authority

The connection allowed personnel to take pictures of spots of interest and send them back to the mobile command center in real time while bringing in footage from the drones and data from the mapping application. The FirstNet devices also allowed mobile command staff to see the location of search teams in real time, adding to the safety the officers involved in the search. Together, these resources provided unprecedented situational awareness and allowed responders to search the land more effectively and thoroughly than was previously possible.

While the power of mobile devices and applications running over FirstNet contributed to the efficiency of this recent search, the investigation into the disappearance of Traci Kegley continues. If you have any information, call CrimeStoppers at (334) 215-STOP.

National News

[FirstNet delivers for agencies responding to Hurricane Michael](#)

"When it comes to natural disasters like Hurricane Michael, we're all in this together. And when everything else was down, FirstNet was working. It's helping keep our officers across the state stay safe and connected during their lifesaving missions," said Steve Casey, Executive Director of the Florida Sheriffs Association.

[Ed Parkinson named acting CEO for FirstNet, succeeding Mike Poth](#)

Ed Parkinson, one of FirstNet's initial employees and someone who has worked for the development of public-safety broadband for most of this decade, is the new acting CEO of FirstNet, according to an announcement today from the FirstNet Authority and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA).

[Potter County, Texas, Signs on to FirstNet](#)

During Monday's Potter County Commissioners' Court meeting the body voted 5-0 in favor of an arrangement with AT&T for access to the U.S. Department of Commerce First Responder Network Authority, also known as FirstNet.



Get Involved!

Beginning in January, the FirstNet Team will be hosting educational workshops. These workshops will provide information and updates pertaining to FirstNet, and will give participants the opportunity to provide opinions, data, and feedback to benefit the FirstNet planning process. Keep an eye out for your invitation, and we hope to see you there!

If you would like to be placed on our distribution list for upcoming events, meetings and updates, please contact us via email at alabamafirstnet@oit.alabama.gov.

Upcoming Events

AL First Responder Wireless Commission Meeting

November 8, 2018

Montgomery, AL

Association of Rescue Squads

November 15-17, 2018

Orange Beach, AL

[Register Here](#)

AL County Commission Association (ACCA) Legislative Conference

December 5-6, 2018

Montgomery, AL

[Register Here](#)

Contact Us

Jim Purcell

SPOC

Jim.purcell@oit.alabama.gov

Danitra Tolbert

Grant Manager

Danitra.tolbert@oit.alabama.gov

Meghan Echols

Program Director

Meghan.echols@oit.alabama.gov

